



FACT SHEET: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

Information as of January 14, 2021

VACCINE SHIPMENT

Shipping Partners

Vaccines and ancillary supplies will be shipped directly to vaccination sites or larger organizations using UPS and FedEx. If the vaccine needs to be transferred, this must be approved by the state prior. Ancillary supplies will ship separately due to different cold chain requirements.

Ancillary Supplies

Vaccines should be scheduled to arrive when staff are guaranteed to be present. All vaccine and ancillary kit deliveries require a signature.

Scheduling

Ancillary supplies will be automatically ordered to match the vaccine orders. Supply kits will include diluent, needles, syringes, alcohol prep pads, surgical masks & face shields, vaccination record cards for recipients, vaccine needle and length guide.

VACCINE STORAGE

Temperature Requirements

Only providers with cold-storage facilities can hold the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for an extended period of time. **Once thawed, the vaccine cannot be re-frozen.**

Shelf Life

Cold Storage Facility (-80°C to -60 °C): **6 months**
Thermal Shipper (-80°C to -60 °C) : **30 days if dry ice is replenished every 5 days**
Standard Medical Refrigerator (2°C to 8°C): **5 days**
Room Temperature 20°C to 22°C : **5 hours**

Dry Ice Requirement

Vaccines will be shipped in a container that includes dry ice. Additional dry ice will be delivered within 24 hours of the vaccine delivery to refill the thermal shipping container for first re-ice only. Additional dry ice will not be provided. Providers must locate a dry ice source if planning to use the shipping container to store the vaccine for more than 5 days.

VACCINE LOGISTICS

Recording Requirements

Providers must record minimum/maximum temperature, date, time, name of employee checking and recording temperature, actions taken if a temperature excursion occurred.

Dilution Requirements

The administrator must remove the thawed vial from the refrigerator and allow it to reach room temperature. Vials at room temperature must be diluted within 2 hours.

Dosage and Timing

Each patient will receive 2 doses at least 21 days apart.



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VACCINE REDISTRIBUTION AND TRANSFER

Redistribution Process:

Scheduled and planned between two sites within the same organization with a signed redistribution agreement

The state must approve any vaccine redistribution.

If redistribution is needed, care and thoughtful planning is required. Please follow these steps:

1. Fill out webform through Service Now: (https://ncgov.servicenowservices.com/csm_vaccine)
2. NC DHHS will review.
3. If request is approved, follow the guidelines provided in the Vaccine Transport section of the [CDC Storage & Handling Toolkit](#) and *Pfizer Redistribution Considerations* document.

The vaccine should be transported a maximum of one time and should not be transported back to the point of origin or a new location.

Transfer Process:

Unplanned and unscheduled movement of inventory between two enrolled sites

The state must approve any vaccine transfer.

If transfer is needed, care and thoughtful planning is required. Please follow these steps:

Fill out the webform through Service Now: (https://ncgov.servicenowservices.com/csm_vaccine)

1. NC DHHS will review.
2. If request is approved, follow the guidelines provided in the Vaccine Transport section of the [CDC Storage & Handling Toolkit](#) and *Pfizer Redistribution Considerations* document.

The vaccine should be transported a maximum of one time and should not be transported back to the point of origin or a new location.

TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

Transportation Guidelines if Vaccine is Thawed

If transferring the thawed vaccine, please follow these guidelines:

1. If less than a full tray is repacked for redistribution, POD (point of delivery) will need to provide a smaller packaging unit that is transported via reputable courier or a temperature-controlled vehicle.
2. Thawed vaccines must be handled with care and protected from shocks, drops, vibrations, etc.
3. Punctured vials should not be transported.
4. Vaccine cannot re-freeze during transport.
5. Air transport of thawed vials at 2°C to 8°C must be securely packed in a 2°C to 8°C temperature-controlled container appropriate for use on an aircraft.
6. On unpressurized flights, temperature-controlled containers must maintain 2°C to 8°C even if the outside air temperature is <2°C to prevent the vials from refreezing.

Transportation Timelines if Vaccine is Thawed

The maximum allowable time for transporting the vaccine is **12 hours**.

POD needs to have a process to ensure that the 12 hours available for transportation at 2°C to 8°C is **not exceeded**.

The vaccine held at temperatures between 2°C to 8°C **will spoil after 120 hours**. The 12 hours used for transportation **must be included as part of the total allowable 120 hours** of product stability at 2°C to 8°C.



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